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Action

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Rec'd: OCTOBER 24, 1962

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 559, OCTOBER 24, 5 PM

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 559, INFORMATION BONN 510, PARIS 349, LONDON 335, MOSCOW 315, USAREUR 330, SHAPE 229.

PARIS ALSO FOR USBO AND MCGUIRE; USAREUR FOR POLAD; SHAPE FOR STOESSEL AND US ELEMENT LIVE OAK

CUBA MONOPOLIZED FRONT PAGES BERLIN PRESS OCT 24. NEWS COVERAGE FEATURED US MILITARY MEASURES, UN AND OAS DISCUSSIONS, WORLD REACTION. SEVERAL PAPERS PUBLISHED FULL TEXT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. REPORTED COMMENTS BY GOVMAYOR BRANDT AND SENAT WELCOMING COURAGEOUS AND RESTRAINED US MOVE SERVING PEACE BY PREVENTING AGGRESSION. BRANDT EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR REITERATION US BERLIN GUARANTEES. SENAT STRESSED NO GROUNDS FOR SPECIAL ANXIETY HERE AND BERLIN TENSION NO GREATER THAN WORLDWIDE EAST-WEST TENSION.

EDITORIALS CHARACTERIZED PRESIDENT'S DECISION AS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN COLD WAR AND MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ACTION OF KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION, MARKING END LONG ERA COMMUNIST INITIATIVE. MOSCOW FAILED HEED REPEATED WARNINGS AND ACCEPT US DETERMINATION AT FACE VALUE RE CUBA, BERLIN, AND ELSEWHERE. US HAS TAKEN NECESSARY RISK WHICH HOPEFULLY WOULD CORRECT SOVIET MISCALCULATIONS. EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SPECIFIC BERLIN WARNING IN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. STRESSED BERLIN'S COMPLETE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT US; NOTED BERLINERS USED TO TESTS OF NERVES AND SHOULD KEEP COOL HEADS AND STRONG NERVES. PRESS STRAW POLLS INDICATED WIDESPREAD SATISFACTION US FINALLY HAD ASSUMED INITIATIVE. WHILE CITY LIFE CALM, BERLINERS CONSCIOUS SITUATION VERY GRAVE AND COULD DIRECTLY AFFECT THEM.

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-2-559, OCTOBER 24, 5 PM, FROM BERLIN

EAST BERLIN PRESS QUOTED SOV DENUNCIATIONS US ACTION WHICH DESCRIBED AS ARBITRARY SEA BLOCKADE, VIOLATION UN CHARTER, INTERNATIONAL LAW, FREEDOM OF SEAS AND TRADE, AND INTERFERENCE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS "PEACEFUL LITTLE CUBA." SAID KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION CHARACTERISTICALLY HAD NOT CONSULTED ALLIES. DESCRIBED HUNDREDS OF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN GDR AND INDIGNATION MAJORITY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, WITH ONLY BONN AND WEST BERLIN ULTRAS APPROVING US ACTION. PRESS REPORTS OF GROMYKO-ULBRICHT DISCUSSIONS OCT 23 ON GERMAN PEACE TREATY AND WEST BERLIN DID NOT MENTION CUBA. ALSO NO MENTION STRONG OAS AND UK SUPPORT.

COMMENT: EAST PRESS CONTINUES CALL US ACTION "COMPLETE SEA BLOCKADE OF CUBA WITH RESPECT TO ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT," WITHOUT FURTHER QUALIFICATION OR EXPLANATION.

LIGHTNER

MCA

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